Maintenance Work of National Highways on Agency Basis

333. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the maintenance work of National Highways has been entrusted to the State Governments on agency basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has made any representations to the Union Government pointing out that Maharashtra has been getting less than its fair share of allocations for original works, maintenance and repairs of National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to allocate more funds to the State for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Nine per cent agency charges are paid to the State Governments for the maintenance work of National Highways done by them, on behalf of the Central Government.

(c) to (f). Availability of funds for maintenance and repair of National Highways is generally of the order of 50-55% of the requirement, as per the approved norms. As such, the short-fall has to be borne by all the State Governments equally. However, funds are allocated to the State Governments generally on pro-rata basis (based on length and width of the carriageway of National Highways in a particular State) for normal maintenance.

Robbery in PNB, Gwalior

334. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the 5-lakh robbery in Punjab National Bank Gwalior on March 16, 1996,

(b) if so whether any enquiry has since been conducted in the matter, and

(c) if so the outcome thereof and the precautionary mearures taken to avoid such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that there was no incident of robbery in PNB in Gwalior on 16.3.1996 However, an incident of robbery took place at the Chetakpuri Gwalior branch of PNB on 16.5.1996 in which an amount of Rs. 5 lacs was looted by three armed robbers from the cashier during the course of cash remittance from branch to currency chest. The cashier and a daily wage worker sustained injuries when fired upon by the miscreants. An FIR has been lodged with the police. The matter has been taken up by the bank with state authorities for increasing the police patrolling in the area. An arrned bank guard has been provided to the branch. The bank has also advised its Zonal and Regional Managers to ensure proper security arrangements at the branch.

Delicencing in Industries

335. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to delicence various industries reserved for the public sector undertakings and small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). At present there are six industries reserved for Public Sector; and 836 items are reserved for manufacture in 'Small Scale Sector'. Review of the reservation/dereservation of industries/ items for Public Sector/Small Scale Sector is a continuing process.

Electoral Reforms

336. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering any concrete proposal to make radical changes in electoral reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) The Government proposes to discuss shortly various proposals on Electoral Reforms with leaders of various political parties and is keen to finalise a package on Electoral Reforms as soon as possible.